



February 17, 2017

Dear DCPS Community,

Here at DC Public Schools (DCPS), it is our priority to ensure that all students and staff are safe, and that the school environment is conducive to teaching and learning. To keep you informed about how we are doing this on an ongoing basis, I want to share information regarding routine maintenance and cleaning at our schools, and management of common pests. I also encourage you to read a longer document with more details at <https://dcps.dc.gov/page/health-and-wellness>.

Throughout the year, DCPS proactively works with the Department of General Services (DGS) to prevent and treat any potential threat of pests (rodents, bugs, etc.) at all schools. DCPS and DGS work with school staff to identify the location of potential pests, complete a thorough inspection for entry points, fix any structural issues which may be a contributing factor, and bring in pest control services, including exterminators, if necessary. The school custodial team is also committed to ensuring the building is thoroughly cleaned and free of unwanted waste that may attract pests on a daily basis.

We follow strict protocols when any pest is identified. First, we immediately confirm the details of the sighting. For example: what was seen, when, and in what area of the school. After which, the custodial foreman then evaluates the area and completes necessary cleaning and maintenance. If needed, we will schedule pest control services to treat the area. Finally, if multiple exterminations are required, a broader communication to families via letter, email, or ConnectEd/Robo is disseminated.

If the pest identified is a bed bug or lice, the school nurse identifies, notifies, and educates affected students, parents, and staff on next steps and available resources. Please note, students are not excluded from school for bed bugs or lice. It is very unlikely for bed bugs to spread or continue to live at a school.

As we continue our ongoing efforts with our agency partners, and conduct routine maintenance and cleaning, the entire school community plays a role in keeping our school buildings clean and safe. From properly disposing of all trash and unwanted food to keeping food limited to designated eating areas, together we can reduce the likelihood of unwanted pests. We want to thank you for keeping our school buildings clean and safe for all.

Sincerely,

Antwan Wilson
Chancellor
DC Public Schools

Greer Johnson Gillis
Director
Department of General Services